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# LaSalle-Backus ES Modernization Kick-off Community Meeting

October 29, 2025 at 5:00 PM

# Agenda

1. Meeting Objectives
2. Meeting Norms
3. Project Overview
4. Projected Enrollment
5. Engagement Strategy
6. Next Steps



# Meeting Objectives

1. Define Engagement Strategy
2. Learn Project Details
3. Introduce the LaSalle-Backus ES Project Team

# Meeting Norms

- Be present and respectful of time.
- Virtual meetings will be recorded.
- Mute your microphone unless you are speaking.
- Use the **Chat** function to capture questions during the presentation. We will review questions at the end of each section.
- Be open to new ideas.
- Understand that we are all working towards the same end goal.



# Project Overview

# What is a Modernization?

DCPS intends to renovate and expand the LaSalle-Backus Elementary campus to meet the school's programmatic needs, DCPS Education Specification (Ed Spec), and the projected enrollment.

## Modernization Vocabulary

- Design Process
- Education Specification (Ed Spec)
- Projected Enrollment

# Project Overview

## Project Location

501 Riggs Rd NE

## Ward

Ward 4

## Projected Enrollment

364 students

## Project Budget

\$88.6M

## Project Type

Full Modernization

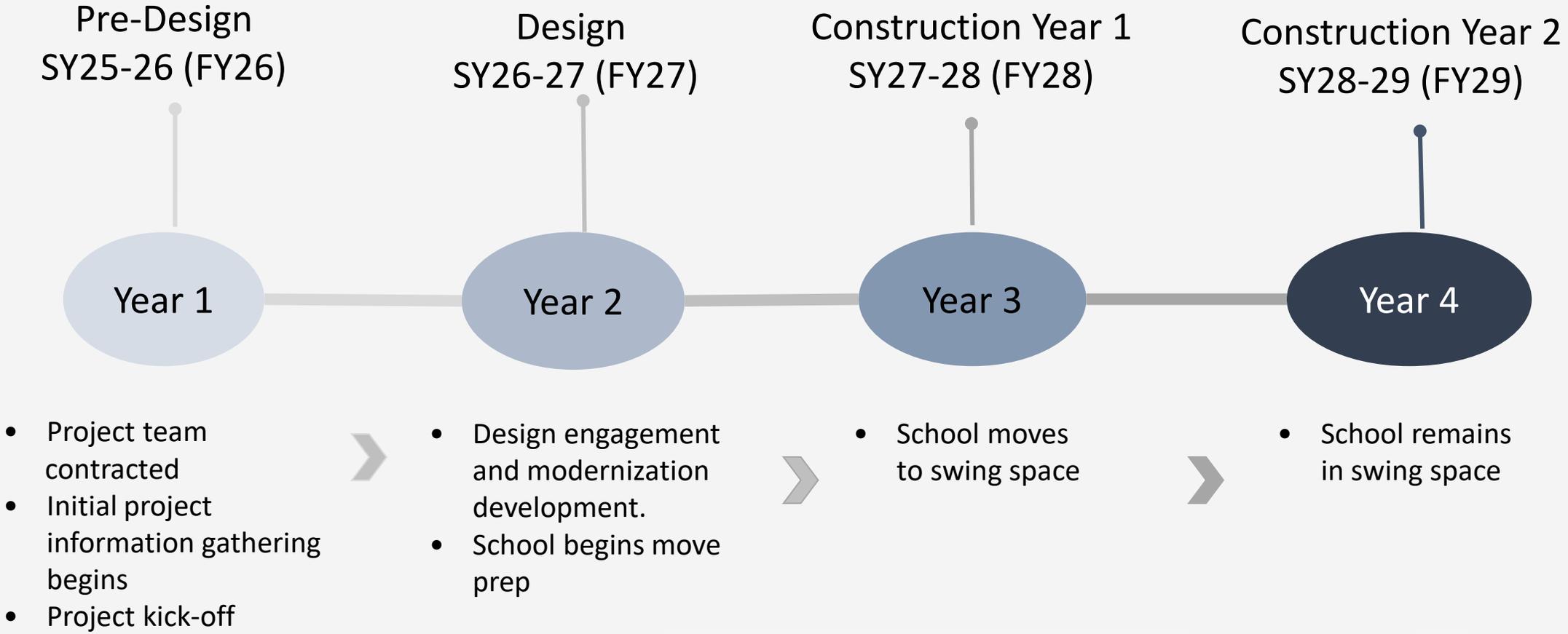
## Project Team

**DCPS POC:** Matthew Dela Cuesta, Planning Specialist

DGS Project Manager: TBD

Design-Build Team: TBD

# Project Timeline



**Anticipated Project Completion:** Summer 2029 for SY 2029-30

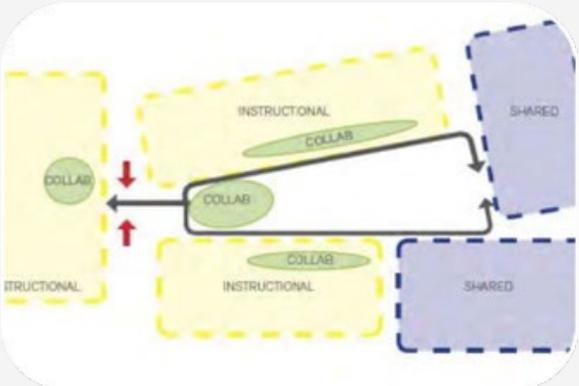
# Project Scope

The modernization project includes full design and construction services for the modernized building.

- ~80,000 square foot school facility (renovation and addition)
- New playgrounds and outdoor classroom
- New mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems

# Design Process

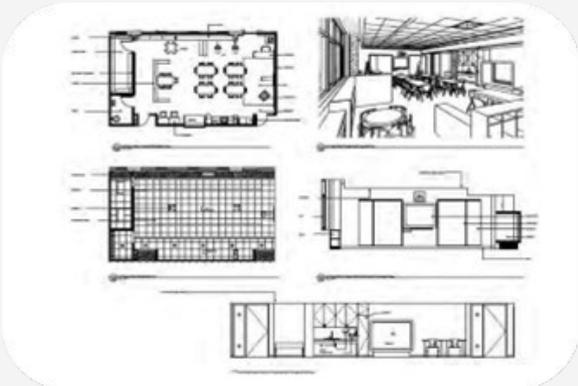
Each modernization follows a developmental sequence that is divided in four phases. Each phase builds off the last, with the engagement and input provided mainly in Concepts and Schematics.



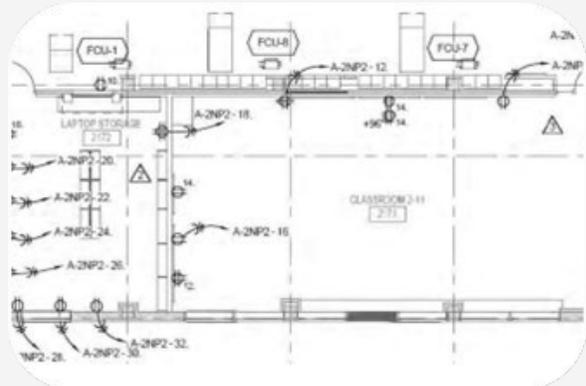
Concept Design



Schematic Design



Design Development

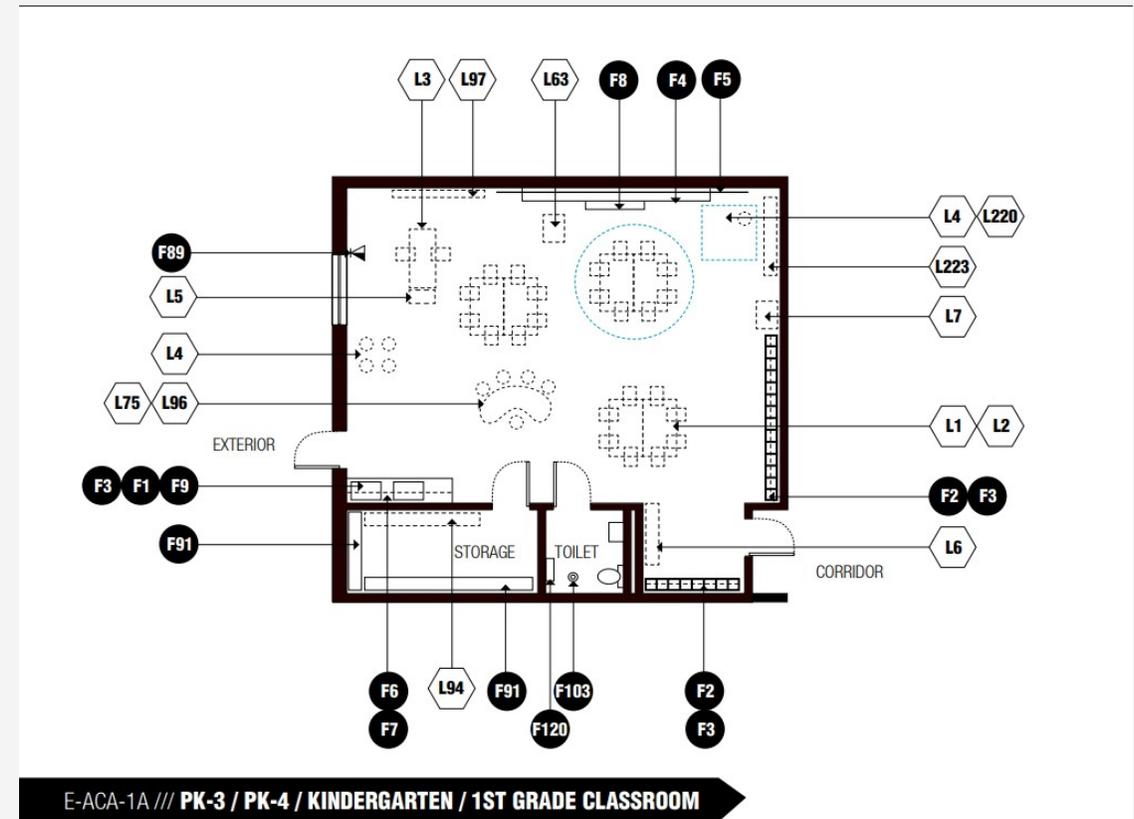


Construction Documents

# Education Specifications (Ed Specs)

Ed Specs define the programmatic, functional, spatial, and environmental requirements of DCPS modernizations. Each project follows district-wide and school-specific Ed Specs.

- District-wide Ed Specs: Identify design features of the building environment, including spatial sizes, relationships, room quantities, and other design or programming elements that affect learning and teaching.
- School-specific Ed Specs: Adapted from District-wide standards based on school enrollment and programming.



For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/dcps-edspecs>

# Education Specification (Ed Spec)

## LaSalle-Backus Elementary Modernization

The modernized building will provide these programmatic spaces

Programmatic Space	Quantity
Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade Classrooms	9
Grades 2-5 Classrooms	9
Self-Contained Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> , and 2nd Grade Classrooms	2
Self-Contained 3-5 Grade Classrooms	1
Resource or Small Group Rooms	5
Outdoor Classroom	1
Garden	1

# Projected Enrollment

Projected enrollment describes the number of students expected to enroll at a school during a particular School Year. DCPS creates enrollment projections used 10-year enrollment data from the DC Public Education Master Facilities Plan, created by the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education (DME).

For a modernization project, DCPS uses the school's projected enrollment data to create a school-specific Ed Spec detailing the number of programmatic spaces needed to comfortably accommodate all students and staff.



# Engagement Strategy

# Key Stakeholders



# Engagement Strategies

DCPS' Facilities Planning and Design (FPD) team manages modernization projects.

We engage communities in three main ways:

1. School Improvement Team (SIT) Meetings
2. Community Meetings
3. Project Updates via Facilities Website

# SIT Meeting Engagement

A School Improvement Team (SIT) is an advisory group for the modernization that includes school staff, families and community members.

## The SIT:

- Provides insight into the school and community's perspectives during a modernization project
- Serves as the link to the broader community by sharing project information and materials
- Is formed of members invited by DCPS on the guidance of school leadership, PTA/PTO, and other District entities (ANC, Council, Education Advisory Boards, etc.)

# SIT Formation

- If you are a teacher, staff member or administrator interested in joining, please contact Principal [Last Name]. The Principal will select 5 individuals to join.
- If you are a parent, family member or guardian interested in joining, please contact the PTA/PTO/LSAT. The PTA/PTO/LSAT leadership will select 5 individuals to join, then forward their contact information to the Principal.
- Principal [Last Name] will forward contact information for the 10 members to the Project POC.
- The Project POC will work with other Central Office teams to identify the remaining SIT members.

Stakeholder	Action
School Leadership	Selects 5 teachers, staff, or admin to join
PTA/PTO/LSAT	Selects 5 parent or family reps to join
Advisory Neighborhood Council (ANC)	Selects 1-2 commissioners to join
Intergovernmental Affairs (IA)	Liaises with respective councilmember office, who will then select 1 staff member they want to join
Community Action Team (CAT) member	Liaises with school leadership or community contacts, who will then select 1-2 neighbors/community members/ civic association members who will join

# Community Meeting Engagement

The SIT is the primary vehicle for engagement between DCPS, the Department of General Services (DGS) and the school and local communities. DCPS hosts a community meeting at the outset of each modernization project. Additionally, DCPS may also host community meetings on an as-needed basis during the project lifecycle.

## Recent Examples

- Upcoming construction activity
- Potential neighborhood impacts

# Facilities Website

DCPS Facilities maintains a website that acts as a central hub of information for active projects and procedures.

Each active project has its own web page cataloging key information.

- Project Overview
- Contact information for the primary points of contact at DCPS and DGS
- Presentations and recordings, if available
- Meeting notes
- Project Updates and FAQs

Facilities Website: <https://bit.ly/DCPS-Facilities>

LaSalle-Backus Elementary Modernization Page: <https://bit.ly/LaSalleBackusDCPS>

# Next Steps

Updates will be posted to the project page on the Facilities website.

School Improvement Team (SIT) formation can now begin.

Connect with us:

DCPS POC: [matthew.delacuesta@k12.dc.gov](mailto:matthew.delacuesta@k12.dc.gov)

LaSalle-Backus Elementary Project Page: <https://bit.ly/LaSalleBackusDCPS>

# Stay Updated!

- Facilities Planning and Design is proud to offer a distribution list for project updates!
- Please take this brief Microsoft Forms survey to subscribe to project distribution lists ([Here](#)).



Link to Distribution List MS Forms Survey